

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A syringe with a retractable needle, comprising a reservoir having an open rear end, a piston element slidably inserted in said rear end, the piston having an end facing toward the inside of the reservoir, the reservoir having a front end open and surrounded by a lip, a needle carrier carrying said needle and slidable in said lip toward and away from said piston, a spring within the lip continuously urging the needle carrier toward the piston, an inwardly extending shoulder on the lip, an inwardly extending shoulder on the needle carrier, and a flexible element secured to and movable with the needle carrier, said flexible element having portions that engage with said shoulder on the lip when the spring urges the needle carrier toward the piston thereby to limit movement of the needle carrier toward the piston, said flexible element having a member thereon engageable by the piston to press a portion of the flexible element into the needle carrier, said portion of the flexible element having hooks thereon that, when pressed into the needle carrier, engage beneath the shoulder on the needle carrier to retain the flexible element in a deformed position in which the

needle carrier is deformed out of contact with the shoulder on the lip, whereupon, when the piston is retracted in a direction away from the needle, the spring can press the needle carrier and the needle and the deformable element in a direction toward the piston thereby to retract the needle within the lip.

22. (new) A syringe as claimed in claim 21, said flexible member being of single piece plastic construction.

23. (new) A syringe as claimed in claim 21, wherein said reservoir has a marking thereon indicating an irreversibility point beyond which movement of the piston toward the needle will cause said hooks on said flexible member to engage beneath said shoulder on said needle carrier, thereby preventing reuse of the syringe.

24. (new) A syringe as claimed in claim 21, said flexible member having a plurality of lateral lugs thereon of V-shaped configuration, the apex of the V being the portion of the flexible member that engages beneath the shoulder on the lip.

25. (new) A syringe as claimed in claim 24, one leg of each V-shaped lug being secured to a central portion of the flexible member and another leg of the V-shaped lug being rotatably secured to the needle carrier.

26. (new) A syringe as claimed in claim 21, said needle carrier having a second shoulder thereon facing the piston and limiting movement of a central portion of the flexible member toward the needle.